

APPENDIX N

MARC 21 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based on the results of the Working Group's analysis of record elements in light of FRBR user tasks, efforts to develop cataloging guidelines designed to reduce redundancies, brainstorming suggestions by catalogers and display issues raised by pilot project record reviewers. These recommendations will be made available to the PCC Standing Committee on Standards and LC's Network Development and MARC Standards Office for further study, so that, where feasible, the recommendations might be developed into MARBI proposals.

1. Increase the number of 7XX linking field indicators to make a greater range of note displays possible and avoid the need for catalogers to spend time writing notes for field 580 (complex relationship notes). Specifically, change the 780/785 indicators to describe the specific relationship in mergers and splits (as was done in the former "ISSN MARC" used by the ISSN Network until the Network began using MARC 21).
2. Add dates to 7XX and 8XX fields for corporate bodies and series to indicate spans of time that the body or series was associated with the work. This will be especially useful if transcription of statements of responsibility is made optional in RDA. Also, add \$i to these fields to allow for generation of notes from these access points.
3. Study the usefulness of Frequency/regularity fixed field coding (008 18-19) in the continuing resources format, with the intention of eliminating these bytes unless feedback from users indicates this data is crucial. To our knowledge, check-in systems do not rely on this information and the coding in MARC 21, seems arbitrary and incapable of being used to generate useful notes.
4. Change the 008/38 Modified Record fixed field code to reflect current needs. The definitions of "o" and "r" should be updated to omit references to cards, or made obsolete, and new values assigned--maybe one for romanized data only, and one for romanized and vernacular data, for those who are using 880's or Unicode.
5. Assign specific MARC tags to 'Description based on:' and 'Latest issue consulted:' notes so as to allow systems to suppress those notes from public view. Alternatively, create display control indicators for all note fields to allow for greater customization at the local level. Many notes needed for internal library or cataloger purposes are confusing to end users.
6. Examine the uses (and users) of MARC 21 prescribed punctuation with the goal of regularizing and simplifying it, especially punctuation at the end of fields. Ideally, all MARC fields should either end in a mark of punctuation or should not. The current mix of fields that require end punctuation to be supplied by the cataloger and those that do not makes training new catalogers difficult.